

# Fiscal Note

**BILL #** SB 1177

**TITLE:** concealed weapons permit; renewal application

**SPONSOR:** Gowan

**STATUS:** Senate Engrossed

**PREPARED BY:** Jordan Johnston

## Description

SB 1177 would require the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to send a reminder notice and renewal application form to each concealed weapons permit (CWP) holder at least 60 days prior to the permit expiration date.

## Estimated Impact

In the short run, we estimate the bill will cost DPS approximately \$300,000 annually to mail paper notifications to CWP holders. This cost includes staff time, postage, and supplies. DPS would like to automate the notification process, but they do not yet have an estimate of those IT costs.

DPS estimates that the staffing costs of the bill will be between \$19,300 and \$38,600 annually to add a new part-time position. The department has not yet estimated its postage and supply costs.

## Analysis

DPS issues permits to carry a concealed weapon to residents of the state, provided the applicant meets certain criteria, such as being a U.S. citizen and demonstrating competence with a firearm.

According to recent data from DPS, there are 414,259 currently active CWPs. To print and send the applications and reminders via mail, it would cost about \$240,300 annually in postage costs, assuming the standard rate of \$0.58 a letter. This cost may be lower if DPS qualifies for bulk mailing rates.

We have assumed approximately \$20,000 in costs for supplies. In addition, the department would incur some staffing costs to send out these letters, which DPS estimates would cost between \$19,300 and \$38,600 annually for a new part-time position. The postage, supply and staffing costs combine for an estimated annual cost of approximately \$300,000.

In the long term, DPS anticipates upgrading their CWP Tracking System. This IT system, amongst other capabilities, enables permit holders to apply and renew their CWPs online. The upgrade would entail options for automatic renewal notifications (via mail and electronic mail). DPS has requested a cost estimate for this upgrade and they are currently awaiting a response from a vendor. Using electronic mail for notifications would effectively eliminate the need to pay postage costs for renewals.

## Local Government Impact

None

3/28/22

